

A PERSONAL NOTE: The two inserts this month are from Don Maris and Ernie Hack, 2 good friends of mine...To answer a question: "Write if you get work and hang by your thumbs" was the sign-off statement of Bob and Ray.

DATES AND TITLES: The date of the DEATH VALLEY DAYS "Sam Bass" is 8/27/36.

IN FOND MEMORY: Ilona Massey, Aug 20, 62. Miss Massey appeared in TOP SECRET on radio...Otto Kruger, Sep 6, 89.

PUBLICATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND GROUPS: Steve Lewis, 62 Chestnut Rd, Newington, Ct 06111 puts out a publication called MYSTERY FILE. It contains short articles and listings of paperback, hardcover, comics, and radio programs relating to mystery and detective fiction. 4 issues are \$1.00 unless you order something...Annual Historical Radio Conference of the Antique Wireless Assoc. is Oct 3-5 at Sheraton Inn, Canandaigua, NY. For information write Dexter Deeley, 50 Rockingham St, Rochester, NY 14620...Oklahoma City will be having a nostalgia convention Jun 19-22, 1975. Don Maris is actively involved in it and is looking for old radio stars who live in a 4-5 state area around Oklahoma to come...Ray Poindexter has written Arkansas Airwaves, a book covering more than 50 years of Arkansas radio and television stations, people and programs. Write Ark. Airwaves, Box 1174, North Little Rock, Ark 72115 (\$8.45). I have not seen the book yet...Received: Radio in Depth, July 1974 #4; 26 pages; features information about shows and personalities on in 1938 including Jack Benny; \$3.00 an issue (every other month) or \$14.00 a year; Box 3634, Bryan, Tex 77801...NARA News, Vol 2 No 1; 1974; over 100 pages of articles, lending library listings, reprints of 1934 and 43 Radio Guide articles and logs. For information on joining NARA send a SASE to NARA, Box 13114 Station E, Oakland, Cal 94661...Norman Corwin wrote an article for the August issue of Westways. He wrote mainly about the preserving of vintage radio by 3 people: Barry Brooks, Calvin Fox, and Marty Halperin...

CATALOGS: Dave Siegel, 351 Amherst A, Ticonderoga, NY 12883; updated listings of documentaries, G's, Inner Sanctum (96), R, W, Weird Circle (60), Whispering Streets (72), Whatever Became of (200), Whistler (200)...Neil Lane; 787 Dodge Tr, Westville, Ind 46391; 76 reels; well organized, good descriptions; interested in F McGee and J Benny...Ernie Hack, 2860 SE 20th Ave, Gainesville, Fla 32601; 429 reels; cost is \$1.75...Harold Callanan, 22 Boyd St, Watertown, Ma 02172; 697-1491; bands, B Venture, F McGee, Aldrich, E Cantor (more later)...Walter Hart, 9015 N 10th St, Phoenix, Ariz, 85020; reel 177-197...

LOGS: Hollywood Hotel 5/7/37-12/2/38; Send SASE to Ray Stanich, 172 Columbia Hts, Brooklyn, NY 11201...Ray also received a 131 page complete log of CAVALCADE OF AMERICA with Date, Title, author, cast, plot; its too expensive to reproduce but Ray will answer a limited number of queries for a SASE...

TAPE: Dallace McLennan tells of a new line of tape Scotch is putting out called "Classic" 1200 foot reels are \$7.95. up to 4800 foot reels which are \$29.95...

LET THE BUYER BEWARE: Various readers have had trouble with Ken Prigal (Nostalgia Time) in Lauderhill, Fla...One reader said he got his tapes but he was extremely slow...Does anyone know the whereabouts
☐ \$5.50 IS DUE FOR ANOTHER YEAR

of Virgil James. He owes a lot of people money...Does anyone know anything about the Old Radio Show Monthly Special Club, Box 1692B, FDR Station, New York 10022.

NEW ADDRESS: Dave Davies, 116 Viets St B5, New London, Ct 06320. Mark North, 1035 Santa Fe Ave, Albany, Cal 94706...Harley Billings, 5206 Morris Ave #1, Camp Springs, Md 20023...

HERE AND THERE: New Friends; Monte Wilson, 112 Depot NW 1st St, Milton-Freewater, Ore 97862. Monte has a large record collection (over 700) including complete MGM musical soundtracks...Herbert Schwartz, 15 Brockton Ct, Metuchen, NJ 08840...Albert Stangler, 37 W 16th St, New York City, NY 10011. Albert is doing research on the Chinese image in the popular media. He is seeking Charlie Chan radio shows and movie soundtracks; also radio shows which featured a Chinatown locale, Chinese characters, etc.

OLD FRIENDS: J Stevenson, Box 128, Lawrenceburg, Ind 47025 is looking for TV traders especially AMOS AND ANDY, FOREIGN INTRIGUE, WATERFRONT, CAPTAIN MIDNIGHT...Tony Romano, 8654 26th Ave, Brooklyn, NY 11214 is looking for all copies of the GOLDBERGS. He will buy...Larry Spalding, 8007 Cardinal Dr, Tampa, Fla 33617 is looking for BOLD VENTURE and LUX RADIO THEATER...Don Koehnemann apologizes for being slow this summer in answering correspondence. If anyone has not received a tape please let him know. Also, who sent Don a cassette of Fibber McGee and Molly-Good old Days of Radio #7; he's lost the address. Don is also looking for Don Adams's comedy LP's, TV Day at Night (PTV)-Edgar Bergen interviewed (811 Bristol Ave, Westchester, Ill 60153)...Bob Haugen would like to resume trading. He has about 2600 shows (Box 508, Downers Grove, Ill 60515)...Larry Flegle, 1004 E Powhattan, Tampa, Fla 33604 has 200 shows on cassette. Is interested in ABBOTT AND COSTELLO...Mort Paradise, 6611 N Fairfield, Chicago, Ill 60645 is looking for ABBIES IRISH ROSE, new MR. KEEN, TAZAN'S Diamond of Asher, reel of PHILIP MARLOWE, TOM MIX...Rich Mann, 6875 East Iliff #124, Denver, Col 80222 is looking for a copy of the Big Broadcast by Frank Buxton...Stu Weiss, 136-49 Jewel Ave, Flushing, NY 11367 is looking for copies of Gene Autrey's Melody Ranch now being rebroadcast over WRCP in Philadelphia...Walt Hart is still interested in juvenile serials, ILAM, One Man's Family, science fiction. Walt would like to start a group interested in juvenile serials of the early forties...Chuck Huck, 43230 River Rd, Warrenville, Ill 60555 is looking for a complete log of J Benny; also early TV shows (1950's-16mm)

NEW PROGRAMS: Harold Callanan: BOLD VENTURE, ALDRICH: EDDIE CANTER, HOLLYWOOD OPEN HOUSE, bands...Rich Mann: over 200 GUNSMOKE recorded over the air from about 1952; the shows are edited and most are without dates but the quality is very good...

CONVENTION: A reminder: The 4th annual convention of the Society of American Vintage-radio Enthusiasts will be held on November 1st and 2nd at the Commodore Hotel, Park Ave and 42nd St in New York City. Himan Brown will be the special guest. Cost including the dinner is \$10.00. The dinner is Sat. night. A flier was included in a previous newsletter. If you are staying over night on Friday or Saturday reservations should be made now. If you want a flier, incase you misplaced it, send me a self-addressed stamped envelope. Registration fees should be mailed to Sal Trapani, Box 377, Seymour, Ct 06483 (203) 888-2747. Other guests will be Jackson Beck, Peg Lynch, Evie Juster, Will Jordan. Try to make it.

FROM HAROLD CALANAN: I have been thinking about the question of the attraction of old radio; collectors, rebroadcasts, new series. The factor usually mentioned is imagination. It is said that radio allowed you to paint pictures and create situations that the visual media could not possibly duplicate. While the point is no doubt true, I don't think that it really gets to the heart of the question...It is also said that the interest is one of nostalgia for a past era of seeming simplicity and calm. Our age has presented us with problems of such magnitude, thrusting themselves upon us in a seemingly never-ending stream, that it is said we long for relief and seek it in a desire to recapture an earlier era. I think there is merit in this contention also, but again I don't think it is the most important factor...The conclusion which I have reached is that the attraction of old radio lies in the greater personalism and warmth of the form of entertainment and communication. We live in an age of growing impersonality and coldness. This social development is reflected in our vehicles of entertainment. Our motion pictures are spectacles of violence and/or sex/and or filthy language! which provides us with no warmth of identification or involvement. Our television programs for the most part are similarly cold and impersonal. Radio on the other hand was a much more personal kind of communication. The radio personalities were actually talking to the listener. With TV it is as if someone had cut a hole in a wall and we are peeking in on the lives of others. At the end of the half hour or hour someone covers up the hole and we are turned away. With radio we didn't peek, we visited. And we were treated as guests; welcomed, spoken to, and warmly bid goodbye with an invitation to return. We were treated as people rather than simply an audience. This struck me most strongly at Christmas time last year. As far as television was concerned, it might as well have been July, except for the commercials. The only hints of the season were a couple of warmed over children's specials and perhaps a last minute Messiah or midnight mass. In radio (and even in early television to a certain extent) what a difference. Every program has a Christmas presentation, some so looked forward to that they were repeated year after year. Our Christmas visits with our radio friends enhanced and expanded the spirit of the season. Now we have to try desperately to keep that spirit alive in the face of massive indifference...I mention Christmas simply as an example of the kind of warmth and immediacy that characterized radio. That is what I think is most lacking today and the most attractive thing that people find in the vintage radio shows we collect. (Editor's note: I have 133 programs with a Christmas theme, many of which were constantly repeated, year after year. Some of my most enjoyable programs are in this group. Harold's article brings more warmth and meaning to the subject of radio programs than any I have read. Many thanks)

LATE NEWS: Roger Smith, 5458 S Oakridge Dr, Beaverton, Mich 48612 is still looking for Sweeney and March and Jack Carson shows...Don Koehnemann now has excellent copies of Stan Freberg, programs 9 and 10. Those who need them let him know...Does anyone know anything about Mike Edwards. A couple of readers have had problems with him...The flier last month from Babylon, NY is from Gary Dudash...Frank Belcour is looking for Lux Radio Theater "With a Song in my Heart" (121 Day St, Auburndale, Ma 02166...Michael Ogden, 1525 McCaskill Ave #4, Tallahassee, Fla 32304...Henry Wrightington, 571 State St, Hanson, Ma 02341 has a 1700 program catalog which he will send to those who send him theirs. He is looking for Pete Kelly's Blues, Aldrich Family, Tales of Fatima, Ellery Queen....Until next month...Hang by your thumbs and write if you get work
Jay Hickerson Box C, Orange, Ct 06477 (203) 795-6261 \$5.50

Cisco Looks Back

At Movies, TV And Life

BY BOB PROCTOR

Typesetting Courtesy Of
The Daily Telegram
Adrian, Michigan. 49221

"Diablo is alive and well at the age of 34, and last year he jumped a five-foot fence," the distinguished-looking Spaniard said proudly to the group gathered around him.

In case you don't recognize the name Diablo, it's a horse, and a very famous one, too, the one ridden by O. Henry's "Robin Hood of the Old West," The Cisco Kid.

The actor who played Cisco in radio, movies and television was Duncan Renaldo, now 70, who was guest of honor July 11-14 at the Fourth Annual American Nostalgia Convention.

...What's that, you say? Radio? Duncan Renaldo revealed it was he who had played Cisco first over the airways!

"I think it was a very good radio show," Duncan recalled in Dallas. "I did quite a few of them myself at first, and then I didn't have time to do them any more, so Jack Mather took over."

Mather went on to portray Cisco for several years, while Duncan played Cisco in dozens of movies and television shows.

"Harry Lang started with me by playing Pancho on radio," Duncan said, "but then Jack Mather, whose voice was very similar to mine, took it over. I was associate-producer of the Cisco Kid pictures, and I had all I could do to cast these pictures, oversee the writers, and to play in them."

"I couldn't have the time to rehearse for the radio shows, since there was no time left. You know, the radio show consumed every day in those days for the entire week. Well, it was either do the radio show or do the movies."

"So I did the movies. I had more interest in them because I had rights in the movies. I had rights to the radio shows, too, but I gave them away. Oh, you can't have everything."

All copies of the radio series are now owned and on file with the Doubleday Publishing Co. of New York, Duncan said, "which won't even let ME get copies of them for some reason."

The stately retired actor shrugged and smiled. "What are you going to do? They just won't let them go, and they've got every one of the series."

Reaction To Today's Westerns

Duncan doesn't like the TV westerns of today, nor the movies, either.

"They're way too violent. They don't portray the West as it should have been portrayed. They're doing a criminal injustice to our children to give them the idea that the West was developed by criminals and confidence men. And all the killing that goes on...well, it just wasn't true."

"None of it was true. Those people that developed the West had so much to do to just exist that they didn't have time to kill each other."

"It's the most criminal thing in the world to paint the names of our ancestors who left us a wonderful country here, and call them brigands and murderers."

"Why, they've shot more people, killed more people on television up to today, than ever populated the West! Really! Just figure that out, how much mayhem goes on."

"And all that fast draw stuff, it's all stupid. No man can shoot on fast draw. You can hit anything but what you're aiming at, because that .45 deflects tremendously so."

"In the old days with the .45's, a man would hold his with both hands and spread his legs to get a good stance and be steady with it. That's the only way he could hit anything."

"Did you ever try a .45? Well, don't make the mistake to cock it and try to pull it fast, and shoot down the leg."

If Duncan Renaldo were back in the production of movies, here's how he'd do a western:

"I'd throw all the writers out, to start with. Any man who can't write a story that deals with human nature and human conflicts, and little stuff that goes on every day that makes for good story material, doesn't have any business in the business."

"It's all very economic. To write a story based on vengeance is very easy. Anybody can sit down and inside of two days can come up with a script, because you do something to somebody, and the other person gets back at you for half an hour."

"That's a fearful piece of business. And it costs very little to make stories like that. They should stress every day happenings and not somebody trying to kill somebody else."

"That's not entertainment...that's sheer stupidity on the part of Hollywood."